HAMATEURCHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

Vol. 16 No. 02 - February, 2008

President's Letter
by Howard, AB9FH

Okay, who braved the cold to operate mobile in our FM Simplex Contest? Have your fingers thawed out yet? I expect some lobbying for a temperature multiplier next year, like in the FYBO contest. I personally have no right to complain. I never made the time to fix my tape measure Yagi, and even if I had, I probably would have stayed home. My plan was to climb the observation tower on Powder Hill (elevation 1350). I found out shortly before the contest that what I thought was the road to the top was only a hiking trail. Climbing the hill in 30º below wind chill -- that's more than I bargained for. I guess I need to work on my competitive spirit!

Thanks to those who volunteered to help out the Board with the financial review. This is a great idea -- no it wasn't mine -- and a good way for more two-way communication between the membership and the Board. If you have ever served, you probably know that most of the time, those running a club hear barely a whisper unless they messed something up.

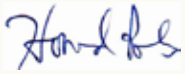
Speaking of serving, please consider joining up and helping the club help you. There are two Board positions, and all four officers to be elected in May.

Planning on upgrading this year? A class is a real help when there is so much material to learn. Make sure you let the Board know ASAP if you want another General class, or even an Extra class. We have several people who like to teach, but schedules can get tight, so we need to plan these as far in advance as we can.

Field Day -- is it too early to start talking about Field Day? We've got a good site, and with the sunspot numbers headed in the right direction, the ionosphere might cooperate a bit more. And even if it doesn't, well, my son, daughter and I still had a great time last year. I think we have some good ideas to fix some of our interference issues. After the regular meeting last month, some of us were talking about a helium balloon-lifted antenna..but even if the only thing going up at FD is hot air, I am looking forward to this year. It's my favorite operating activity.

I hope to see you Thursday the 28th!

73 de
AB9FH.



Dues 're Due!!!
Let's Dues It!!!

MRAC Application form
on Page 5

MRAC Officers

President
Howard Parks AB9FH

Vice President
Joe Schwarz N9UX

Secretary
Sarah Parks KB9ZNC

Treasurer
Mark Tellier AB9CD

Board of Directors

Brian Bieger ('07-'09)	KC9HEK
Pancho Doneis ('07-'09)	KA9OFA
Tom Liebe ('06-'08)	WI9TOM
Al Maahs ('07-'09)	KC9IJJ
Ted Stiller ('06-'08)	WA9RDI

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HamateurChatter Emailings
Joe Schwarz N9UX

Regular Mailings
Dick Wood W9JBE

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(414) 332-MRAC or
(414) 332-6 7 2 2

Visit our website at:
www.w9rh.org

Address correspondence to:
M. R. A. C.
P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695
or w9rh@arrl.net

Nets Heard in the Milwaukee Area

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY
Daily	6:00-8:00 AM	14.2900	Milwaukee / Florida (SSB)
Daily	5:15-6:00 AM	3.9850	Wisconsin SSB net
Daily	7:30 AM	144.1550	Breakfast Round Table (SSB)
Daily	9:30 PM	3.9725	Country Cousins Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.8650-	ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news)
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.4450	Emergency Net
Mon.	8:45 PM	147.1650	ARRL voice news (ARES)
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net
Mon.	9:00 PM	147.1650	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
Tue.	9:00 AM	50.1600	6 m. 2nd Shifters' SSB Net
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.2500	Badger Contesters (SSB)
Tue.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net
Wed.	8:00 PM	28.365	MKE Guardian chptr 10-10 net
Wed.	8:00 PM	145.130-	ARRL voice news
Wed.	9:00 PM	145.130-	MAARS Swapnet
Wed.	8:00 PM	147.270+	Weather & Swap Net
Thu.	**8:00 PM**	**50.160**	**MRAC 6 m. SSB Net**
Thu.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Computer Net
Fri	**8:00 PM**	**28.490**	**MRAC W9RH 10 m. Net (SSB)**
Fri.	**9:00 PM**	**145.390-**	**W9RH 2 m. FM Net after 10 mtr. net**
Sat	9:00 PM	146.910-	Saturday Night Fun Net
Sun.	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Sun.	9:00 AM	145.565	X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Sun.	10:00 AM	443.800	FM-38 link to 146.88 Baraboo Swapnet
Sun.	8:00 PM	28.365	MKE Guardian chptr 10-10 net
Sun.	8:00 PM	146.910-	Information Net
Sun.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Swap Net

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600 KHz - - 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 meters and above are USB

HAMATEURCHATTER

HamateurChatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club), a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are $17.^{00}$ per year and run on a calendar year starting January 1.

MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00 p.m. the last Thursday of the month except for November (3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving) and December, when Christmas dinner takes the place of a regular meeting.

Meetings are held at:

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

Credits

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

WB9BWP KC9HEK N9UX
AB9FH KA9OFA W9UVV
KF9PU

Our thanks also goes to:
Rita Doneis, Tom Fuszard, Al Maahs, and Hal Newton, for proofreading the 'Chatter this month.

Thanks also to Dick Wood for mailing the hard copy of the 'Chatter and to Joe Schwarz, who Emails the 'Chatter.

Brian White, who administers our Web Site.

Tom Czaja, Tom Fuszard, Larry Noldan, and Mark Tellier who manage our VEC.

Thank YOU!

Upcoming Programs

The February 28th program will be by Brian Bieger, KC9HEK, who will talk about

Software Based Radios

The April 24th program will be by Glenn Schulz who will talk about

Fuel Cells and Other Alternative Energy

General Membership Meeting 1/31/08

By Pancho Doneis, KA9OFA

Meeting was called to order at 8:14 pm

The microphone was passed for identification.

Howard noted that the secretary is in college and won't be able to attend this or the next meeting. Because of this we will have an electronic record of the meeting.

Howard, A9FH, read the minutes from the previous meeting. There were no corrections to the minutes and were approved as read.

Treasurer's report:

• Reports from December and January were given since there was no meeting in December. Our physical accounts and virtual accounts balance.

• A budget was requested for presentation, but was not ready, yet. The phone bill has gone up a little bit so Mark, AB9CD, will prepare a report to present at the February meeting.

• The treasurer is looking for two or three volunteers to do a review of the club's books. As a group there were some changes and adjustments in our accounting and we'd like to establish a yearly review policy for the books. Brian, Larry and Dwain volunteered to help out with the review.

• The Treasurer's report was accepted as read.

Buzz Talk:

• Joe, N9UX: ARRL RTTY Roundup was in early January. 15 and 20 meters were on and there were quite a few stations involved. The VHF contest didn't have as much activity.

• Jack, W9ULA's getting interested in packet radio again and wondered if there was any interest within this club in getting involved in the 2-meter frequency.

• Brian, K9LCQ, says there are a couple of people from the club involved already, but there was a comment that Winlink 2000 is more dominant right now. It allows you to use Outlook Express to send e-mails; it uses the internet and lets you connect locally. The old packet forced you to go from station to station to get across the state and took quite a while. It's interesting but a little dated.

• Blake, KC8PQA: Packet is more popular in Wisconsin than in Michigan. The National Weather Service sends out warnings and severe weather statements on it. A lot of message activity goes on with APRS. APRS is not dead; it's doing well in Milwaukee.

• K9LCQ: You don't need a lot of equipment to handle packet. Mobile tracking takes more sophistication, but for a home station a standard TNC will work fine.

• KC8PQA: Please note that it is critical to put in some coordinates when you beacon. If you leave the coordinates blank you can create serious errors on GPS systems.

• K9LCQ: Skywarn recognition day VHF had a lot of activity. It actually beat out the HF station in Sullivan this year. We did better in four hrs than the 24-hour VHF station did. Severe weather spotting classes will start next month and run through April. Check out the National Weather Service site for more information. A couple of local clubs that have weather spotting classes as well which aren't listed on the Weather Service site.

• In December we ran a general class with the Ozaukee radio club. There were seven students in the class, one of which was only 12 years old. He took his test recently after three classes and passed his general. Classes are still bringing people in.

Old Business:

Tom, KF9PU:

• VEC – extra class pool has been released but may be re-released soon due to errors. It will become official July 1st, so if you plan to take the Extra Class exam and have the new materials, it's recommended that you take it in the next few months.

• The regular schedule of exams has started. They will take place the last Saturday of the month in February, March, April and May, followed by a break until July.

• Larry Noldan, NZ9I, was welcomed to the management team of the VEC. He will help out with running test sessions and other activities.

Howard:

• Asked if there are any issues with an extra $10 for hard copies of the 'Chatter. There were no comments.

• Renewals seem to be coming in well so far. Forms are available at the meetings and on the Web site.

Joe, N9UX: Flyers are available for the FM Simplex contest, which the MRAC has sponsored for the past few years. On Monday, February 10th we'll meet for about three hours. The format of the contest has been changed a bit from the past few years. To reduce confusion only one band at a time will be allowed. There are four grid squares in Milwaukee area: 63 is the NW quadrant, 62 is SE side, 60 is the NE side, 52 is SW side. The corner is right around 70th and Beloit. There is a 90% chance that W9RH will be located on Hillcrest park in Waukesha. There is a 10-point bonus available for contact with W9RH, but you are only allowed one 10-point bonus. W9RH will be on all four bands.

New Business:

Howard:

• Start thinking about board membership or being an officer for the club. All officer terms are up in May. There are four officers and two directors. Elections will be held in May; the new officers take over in June. If you want to know what's involved in the job please ask the former board members. We will officially start taking nominations at the April meeting.

• We are looking into doing other things with microphones, specifically with regard to lapel mics. It would be good especially for presentations so the speaker wouldn't have to hold a mic while speaking, etc. There have been a few offers of equipment.

Pancho:

• We're beginning to talk about Field Day. It's been suggested that we hold a rummage sale prior to field day to garner extra money for cables, ropes, etc. without going into club funds. If anyone has an idea for a good location on a busy street please let him know. This will not only be an electronic rummage sale; any items you want to sell are welcome.

Minutes cont. on pg. 4

Minutes cont. from pg. 3

Howard:

• Has anyone had a chance to participate in a six meter net? A few people have, but it would be great to have more. Buck, K9RYW, has had problems with quality on six meters, but that may be an issue with equipment location. A question was brought up as to what frequency 6 meters is on. It's on SSB at 50.160. An HF beam antenna works well as does a G5RV. It's requested that information on 6 meters be added to the Chatter and the Web site. It is on Thursday night at 8 p.m.

• A question was asked at a recent board meeting about special interest groups. The MRAC is a general interest club, but among our membership we do have members with common interests. If you would like to start a special interest group, please mention it during Buzz talk. Special interest groups could meet before or after general meetings.

• Howard was surprised how many people only come to club meetings once or twice a year. He would like to encourage us as club to welcome people who are visitors to our meetings.

• The raffle will be taking place immediately following the meeting.

• The program for next meeting will be Software Controlled Radio.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Repectfully submitted,

Panch Doneis, KA9OFA (stand-in for the secretary)

Turn in your logs for the FM Simplex Contest

By Pancho Doneis, KA9OFA

Attention, Please!

If you participated in the FM Simplex contest, your logs and contest results are needed by the scoring committee.

Even if you think you didn't do well in the contest, send in the contest form which can be obtained at the MRAC website: www.w9rh.org or at the upcoming meeting on February 28, 2008.

The Logs are needed for cross referencing and checking other participant logs and contest scores.

Please submit them **by March 8**, 2008 to:

MRAC

P.O. Box 070695

Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

Or bring them to the **Feb. 28th meeting**.

The FM Simplex committee thanks you.

MRAC YAHOO Group

By Dave DeFebo, WB9BWP

Besides a world wide web site and an email address, MRAC also has a Yahoo group. For those of you who don't know what a Yahoo group is, it is an email mailing list type of service hosted by Yahoo (currently being pursued by Microsoft). A mailing list is a service where you send one message to the list and everyone subscribed to the list automatically receives the message (either immediately, daily or when requested). With a Yahoo group there is a Web interface to the group. There is also a files area which contains some Chatter archives and a photo section with numerous club photos both old and recent. Currently there are only 27 people subscribed to the group. That is less than half of the members with email addresses in the club database. Using the group is an easy way to ask a question of the membership, make an announcement to the membership, or just offer a comment. You send one email and everyone on the group receives it.

In an effort to get more members signed up, those of you with email addresses who are not already subscribed will be receiving an email message from Yahoo inviting you to subscribe to the group. You will be able to follow the instructions in the message and everything will be taken care of. If you are not subscribed because you are afraid of junk mail or other computer intrusions, not to worry. The group is limited to club members and requires approval by the group administrator (currently me, unless someone else wants the job). The group is also marked as private, meaning it does not appear in searches of the Yahoo groups. This means you will only be receiving proper messages, no junk. Approval also means it may take a day or so to approve a group membership allowing access to the group.

So **please**, when you receive the invitation, **sign up** and get connected to all your fellow club members.

73, Dave WB9BWP

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

2008 Membership/Renewal Application

Date _____ PT R C CK

Name _____ **Callsign** _____

Spouse or Family member name _____ **Callsign** _____

1st Address _____

2nd Address _____

_____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Telephone Contact Number _____ **Home Cell Office Other**

E-mail address _____

Do you wish to receive the club newsletter via email? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** **($10 Subscription for US Mail)**

Membership Type Applied for (check only one)
☐ **Regular $17.00** ☐ **Family $17.00** ☐ **Associate $17.00** ☐ **Life + Chatter (Mail) $10.00**

Applicants License Class
☐ **None** ☐ **Novice** ☐ **Technician** ☐ **Technician Plus** ☐ **General** ☐ **Advanced** ☐ **Extra**

Spouse or Family License Class
☐ **None** ☐ **Novice** ☐ **Technician** ☐ **Technician Plus** ☐ **General** ☐ **Advanced** ☐ **Extra**

ARRL member?
Applicant ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
Spouse/Family ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Participated in any Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club training?
Code on the Air ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** **Classroom** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
Code on the Air ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** **Classroom** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Club Interests: ☐ **Teaching** ☐ **Field Day** ☐ **Volunteer Examiner** ☐ **Officer**
☐ **Director** ☐ **Net Control** ☐ **Repeater** ☐ **Other** _____

Committee interests: ☐ **Newsletter** ☐ **Field Day** ☐ **Repeater** ☐ **Refreshments**
☐ **Public Relations** ☐ **Archives** ☐ **Meeting Programs**
☐ **Christmas Party** ☐ **Other** _____

Amateur radio interests: _____

Enclose a check for the appropriate amount and mail it to the address above.

Membership year runs from January 1 through December 31

Received from _____ ***Date*** _____

The Sum of _____ ***Dollars*** ***Cash/Check #*** _____

For **Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club dues 2008**

_____
Signed

How a Couple of HAMs Helped Fight Crime in Chicago

By Roger Zaun, W9UVV

This happened in Chicago in late 1939. I was a Junior Design Engineer in the laboratories of the Thordarson Electric Company. Early one morning, our Chief Engineer, Wilfred Howe, W9UPV, came down to the lab with his good friend, Fred Schnell, W9UZ in tow. Fred was then head of Police Radio Communications for Chicago. Wilfred said that Fred, W9UZ was having a serious work related problem that he hoped we could help resolve. However, the information that Fred would disclose must be kept confidential and go no further.

Fred Schnell then told us that Currency Exchanges in one area of the city were being "ripped off" by an elusive group of armed holdup men. To date, efforts to apprehend them were nil and City Hall was pressing the Police Department for immediate action. Police officers had been staked out in back rooms of several Exchanges, but this effort tied up personnel and put customers and clerks in harms way. Also, a shoot-out had already occurred. Luckily no one was injured, but the bandits escaped. So the department was reluctant to further pursue this approach. Fred also related that they had tried dedicated alarm phone lines to police headquarters but this was not productive. By the time the holdup information was relayed to the Radio Dispatcher and broadcast to the radio cars, the hold-up men were long gone.

What Fred wanted, with our company's cooperation and approval, was to design and build him a small portable transmitter to operate on the police frequency, which I believe then was about 1750 kilocycles. This unit was to put out a coded tone modulated signal when actuated by an alarm switch. His unit was to install the transmitter in a selected Currency Exchange and inform only the radio squad car assigned to the area of the target Exchange the exact date and time of the surveillance operation. This direct radio alarm system, he believed, would bring the immediate police response that was missing from the current police efforts.

Next, my Chief Engineer, Wilfred Howe, W9UPV, said, "Roger, I want you to handle this. You have been building Ham transmitters for several years and are currently working on designs for our new transmitter manual, so it should be a 'piece of cake'. You are to drop all present projects, and I want to see a completed prototype for Fred in ten days or less."

I well remember the "rig" I designed. It was a Pierce crystal oscillator, using a 47 tube coupled into a 1619 beam tetrode final, using screen grid modulation. The carrier output was about 15 watts. The 1619 tube utilized a pi-network tank circuit, so the rig could be loaded into any random length of antenna that would be strung up for this special operation. The modulator was a type 2A3 tube used in a 1000 cycle audio oscillator circuit. This circuit employed a center tapped output transformer with the secondary winding carrying the 1619 screen circuit current, thus tone modulating the final. The cathode circuit of the 2A3 was keyed by a contact riding on a notched rotating drum driven by a small constant speed motor . The power supply was conventional, operating from 115 volts a.c. Directly heated filament tubes were selected so that the transmitter could be put in operation almost instantly. The power supply also utilized a latching relay so once the low voltage alarm circuit was closed, the transmitter remained on the air until it was reset.

The entire unit was mounted in a Bud carrying case. The only panel controls were the final tuning, antenna loading, a relative output meter and antenna terminal and terminals for the remote alarm switch.

Well, we did make the project deadline and delivered the finished unit to Fred Schnell, W9UZ.

Needless to say, I was very curious to know if the unit ever accomplished its intended purpose. About a month later, I saw Fred at a local Ham gathering and queried him on his hush-hush project. He pulled me aside, and in a confidential tone said, "Hey, you haven't seen any recent reports of Currency Exchange robberies in the Chicago Tribune, have you? Incidentally, my job in the Police Department still seems secure. It's entirely possible this turn of events could be related to the assist from you guys at Thordarson.

Enough said!"

EVENTS

MRAC Membership Meeting
Thu. - Feb. 28 , 2008
Software Based Radios

HamFest 2008 *
Tri-County Amateur Radio Club
Sun. - Mar. 16, 2008
Jefferson Co. Fairgrounds - Activity Center
Jefferson, WI
T/I on 145.49 repeater
Email: tricountyarc@yanoo.com
Subject: Hamfest 2008

MRAC Membership Meeting
Thu. - Mar. 27 , 2008

SuperFest 2008 *
Fri .& Sat.-Mar. 28 & 29, **2008**
AES, Milwaukee, WI
* VE testing **Sat. only**

MRAC Membership Meeting
Thu. -Apr. 24 , 2008

3rd Annual Central WI SwapFest
Sat. - Apr. 26, 2008
Colby Lions Pavilion
Colby, WI
T/I on 147.75/147.15 (114.8 tone)

Cedarburg SwapFest
Sat. - May 3, **2008**
Circle B Recreation Center
Cedarburg, WI
T/I on 146.97- (127.3 tone)

Dayton Hamvention
Fri - Sun - May 16 -18, 2008
Trotwood, Ohio

MRAC Membership Meeting
Thu. -June 26 , 2008

ARRL Field Day **2008**
Sat.. & Sun. - Jun. 28 & 29
Pioneer Village
Cedarburg, WI

* indicates VE testing is available.

VE NEWS
BY TOM, KF9PU

We had two test sessions during January. Of the 20 people who joined us, 18 walked away with new or upgraded licenses.
VEs who assisted during these sessions included:

Tom Czaja ---------- KG9EE
Mark Tellier---------- AB9CD
Ken Hahn ---------- WK9H
Nels Harvey --------- WA9JOB
Tony Kolar---------- AB9PN
Larry Noldan ---------- NZ9I
Brian White---------- K9LCQ
Mark Bye ----------KB9LDX
Kent Christiansen ------ N9WH

Our next session will be at AES on Feb. 23. We'll test from 9:30 to 11:00.

VEC financial report for January:

Beginning balance: $4,579.26
Income: $105.00
Expenses: $0
Ending balance: $4,684.26

REMINDERS

Please check into our nets on Friday evenings.

Our Ten Meter SSB net is at 8:00 p.m. at 28.490 MHz ± 5 KHz USB.

Our Two Meter FM net follows at 9:00 p.m. on our repeater at 145.390 MHz, minus offset and a PL of 127.3 Hz.

Join us for Saturday Morning Breakfast at Maxim's Restaurant, 18025 W. Capitol Dr. We usually meet at around 8:00 a.m., and order around 8:15 a.m. The food and the company are good and you don't have to be a member of the club to join us.

CQ Third Tuesday
Come to CQ Third Tuesday at:
Old Country Buffet
16750 West Bluemound Rd.
Brookfield, WI
This gathering of HAMs meets on the third Tuesday of every month.
We start arriving there at 11:00 a.m. and leave when we're full and/or all talked out.

EXAM SCHEDULE
BY TOM FUSZARD, KF9PU

MRAC VEC
Exam Schedule
For upcoming Test Sessions:

Feb. 23	**9:30 a.m. @ AES**
Mar. 29	8:30 **AES Superfest**
Apr. 26	9:30 a.m. @ AES
May 31	9:30 a.m. @ AES

For details, check out:

www.w9rh.org/testing.htm/

AES = Amateur Electronic Supply
5710 W. Good Hope Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

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HAMATEURCHATTER

The **next meeting** of **MRAC**
will be **Thursday, February 28, 2007**
at 7:00 p.m.
Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
(Use the south entrance)
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please, DON'T call the church.

Our Repeater,
Talk it up.
145.390– MHz
(127.3 Hz PL)

Brian Bieger, KC9HEK, will be our featured speaker for our program at our **Feb. 28th** general meeting.

He will speak about **"Software Based Radios"**

Visit our website at: **www.qsl.net**
Our phone (414) 332-MRAC
332-6722

M.R.A.C.
Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club
P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

First Class